

36th Annual Scientific Meeting American Spinal Injury Association Nashville, Tennessee May 26–28, 2010

Anthony DiMarco, MD, Receives The Apple Award

Sponsored by ASIA, Shepherd Center, and Thomas Land Publishers, Inc.

For the fourth year, ASIA will present The Apple Award of excellence for publishing in the spinal cord injury rehabilitation literature (during 2009). This award is named in honor of David F. Apple, Jr., MD, founding member and past-president (1983–1985) of ASIA. The award is a collaboration by 3 entities that were critically important to Dr. Apple during his long career in orthopedic surgery: Shepherd Center, Inc., where he served as founding medical director for 30 years; *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation* of which Dr. Apple is editor; and ASIA.

The 2010 recipient of The Apple Award is Anthony F. DiMarco, MD, of the Departments of Physiology and Biophysics of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr DiMarco [figure 1] is the lead author on a pair of articles, the first of which is entitled: “Lower Thoracic Spinal Cord Stimulation to Restore Cough in Patients with Spinal Cord Injury: Results of a National Institutes of Health-Sponsored Clinical Trial. Part I: Methodology and Effectiveness of Expiratory Muscle Activation.” Co-authors on this article are: Krzysztof E. Kowalski, PhD, Robert T. Geertman, MD, PhD, and Dana R. Hromyak, BS, RRT. The second article is entitled: “Lower Thoracic Spinal Cord Stimulation to Restore Cough in Patients With Spinal Cord Injury: Results of a National Institutes of Health-Sponsored Clinical Trial. Part II: Clinical Outcomes. Co-authors are: Dr Kowalski, Dr Geertman, Ms Hromyak, Fredrick S. Frost, MD, Graham H. Creasey, MD, and Gregory A. Nemunaitis, MD.

The articles appeared in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, volume 90, number 3, May 2009.

Dr DiMarco receives the Apple Award from its namesake, Dr David F. Apple, Jr., on May 26, 2010 at the ASIA Annual Scientific Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. The award consists of a check for \$2,000, a commissioned glass apple sculpture, and the invitation to keynote the 2010 Research Day at Shepherd Center in Atlanta.

Previous Recipients of the Apple Award:

2007
M.J. Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L

2008
Christopher Patrick Smith, MD

2009
James S. Krause, PhD

Victor Ibrahim Accepts Young Investigator's Grant

The 2010 recipient of The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation/ASIA Sell Fund Young Investigator's Grant is Victor M. Ibrahim, MD, Clinical Instructor at the Georgetown School of Medicine and Staff Physiatrist at National Rehabilitation Hospital. The title of his grant is: “Use of Platelet Rich Plasma for the Treatment of Bicipital Tendinopathy in Spinal Cord Injury: A Pilot Study.” Dr Ibrahim was born in Cairo, Egypt, and earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He served his internship at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, and was chief resident in physical medicine and rehabilitation at New York Presbyterian Hospital and University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell in New York City. He has been on staff at National Rehabilitation Hospital since August 2009.

Given for the first time last year, this one-year \$15,000 grant is designed to provide funding to a postdoctoral researcher whose work has contributed substantially to the field of spinal cord injury medicine. The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation has committed itself to support this grant for a minimum of 5 years (2009–2013). The funding provided by this foundation is being matched by the Sell Research Fund of ASIA. Nominations are accepted from ASIA members only, to ensure that the mission of the association is reflected in the work of the nominees. For additional details, see www.asia-spinalinjury.org.

Previous Winner

2009 Mousumi Ghosh, PhD, University of Miami

JSCM

Andrew Blight Delivers Distinguished G. Heiner Sell Lectureship

Andrew R. Blight, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, Acorda Therapeutics, is the 2010 Distinguished G. Heiner Sell Lecturer. The Sell Lectureship commemorates the contributions made by G. Heiner Sell, MD, to the field of spinal injury medicine, and to ASIA. Dr Sell was president-elect of the association at the time of his death in 1981. The lecture was inaugurated the following year, and has been given by invitation every year since.

Dr Blight received his graduate degree in zoology/neurobiology from the University of Bristol, UK. He served postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Iowa (neurobiology) and at NYU Medical Center and the Max-Planck Institute for Brain Research in Germany (physiology and biophysics). He has held academic appointments at NYU Medical Center, Purdue University, and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has been associated with Acorda Therapeutics for the past 14 years.

Dr Blight speaks from his unique perspective as a scientist and entrepreneur. His talk is entitled: “Therapeutic Development in Spinal Cord Injury—A View from Industry.”



Andrew R. Blight, PhD.

Previous Sell Lecturers:

1982	J. Paul Thomas	1997	O. Lars Olson, MD
1983	R. Edward Carter, MD	1998	Giles S. Brindley, MD
1984	Albert J. Aguayo, MD	1999	Ake Seiger, MD, PhD
1985	P. Hunter Peckham, PhD	2000	Susan J. Harkema, PhD
1986	John Doyle	2001	Mary B. Bunge, PhD
1987	Edward J. McGuire, MD	2002	Michal Schwartz, PhD
1988	Bernard Towers, MD	2003	Barbara S. Bregman, PhD
1989	David C. Viano, PhD	2004	Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD
1990	Martin E. Schwab, PhD	2005	Claire E. Hulsebosch, PhD
1991	V. Reggie Edgerton, PhD	2006	Volker Dietz, MD
1992	John F. Ditunno, Jr., MD	2007	Arthur Prochazka, MD
1993	Robert R. Menter, MD	2008	Mark H. Tuszynski, MD, PhD
1994	Paul J. Reier, PhD	2009	Jonathan Wolpaw, MD
1995	William C. de Groat, PhD		
1996	Charles H. Tator, MD, PhD		

Presidential Gala Honors ASIA's Leadership

This year marks ASIA's first Past Presidents' Gala, which honors its founding members and first 7 presidents: “The Magnificent Seven.”

R. Edward Carter, MD (Houston, TX) 1973–1977

Paul R. Meyer, MD (Chicago, IL) 1977–1981

Samuel L. Stover, MD (Birmingham, AL) 1981–1983

David F. Apple, Jr., MD (Atlanta, GA) 1983–1985

J. Darrell Shea, MD (Orlando, FL) 1985–1987

William H. Donovan, MD (Houston, TX) 1987–1989

John F. Ditunno, Jr., MD (Philadelphia, PA) 1989–1991